



WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

TO THE CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

The Auxiliary and Politics

THE SCOPE of auxiliary programs covers many aspects of community service. If asked why we are concerned with such diverse projects, our answer would be: Assurance to the public that we are vitally interested in good government. We eagerly donate time and effort to causes that are related to the betterment of our community. Our interests are all keyed to helping others to help themselves. While in particular we are striving to keep medicine a free, unencumbered profession, that aim is a part of our wish to fulfill our moral obligation to those around us.

Medicine has been singled out as one of the first targets for socialization. It is incongruous that medicine should be selected, for no other profession can boast a comparable record of contribution to humanity. Its insistence that the health of the nation is paramount, may be one of the keys to its present problems. Because physicians always had an unselfish devotion to the welfare of their patients, they are reluctant to believe that government bureaucracy would question their ability to render the best medical care in the world. The events of the past few years, however, have brought them to a full realization of what some government officials have in mind for them. This has only served to unite them in a common effort to meet this threat. We in the Woman's Auxiliary are joining our forces with our husbands' to prove that we are not protecting selfish interests.

Since proponents of these government programs are trying to place medicine under their control, we have been forced into the political arena. It is not only from a medical standpoint that we oppose such government interference, but because it is a threat to all private enterprise. We are staunch supporters of constitutionalism and the rights of the individual.

We have just been through a crucial national election. Our government legislators have been selected and will be taking office in January. Are you happy with the results? Are your representa-

tives imbued with a philosophy of constitutional government? Do they have a true sense of fiscal responsibility? Do they believe in our way of life based on individual freedom and free enterprise? If the answer to any of these questions is no, it could be our apathy and complacency that put such persons in office. Maybe our refusal to forget party lines helped in the election of men who are the antithesis of everything we expect from government. In retrospect, did we really respond wholeheartedly when called on to do pre-election campaigning? Maybe one more phone call, an extra hour spent in precinct work or a few hours spent on election day taking friends to the polls might have assured us that we would not be faced with Forand-type legislation in 1963.

Now that the decisions have been made, we must anticipate and prepare for the next two years. The administration has promised the reintroduction of a new medicare bill. It will probably be a revision of the King-Anderson bill, with concessions made on some points to help its passage, but maintaining the Social Security approach. We all have vast supplies of material for combating this legislation, although some of it may vary in minor details with any new bills presented in January. The next two months can be used profitably in continued education against any form of government medicine. We are sponsors of good medicine, regulated by persons best qualified—physicians. We disagree with those who would burden our future generations with an insurmountable tax load, to take care of us in later years, whether we need such help or not.

Most newly elected officials will remain in their respective districts for the next two months. If you have not already done so, it is urgent that you get acquainted with them. In some instances, they will be new to the field of politics, in others incumbent. They may not all agree with your point of view, but that should not preclude making your ideas known to them. They are responsible to you, their constituents, and they are politically alert enough to know they must consider your opinion when they

are making their decisions. Let them know you are watching their voting record. Correspond with them frequently when they are away from home. Commend them when they take a stand supporting our ideals. Do not always ask for favors. Senator Byrd, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, has said, "The average citizen has power he seldom realizes. For one thing he has the power of the pen."

As women, we are members of the largest voting majority. We can sway public opinion and influence votes if we make full use of our potential. Being members of the Woman's Auxiliary to the California

Medical Association, we have the added advantage of membership in the largest state auxiliary. This carries with it increased responsibilities. We should lead in action. The other states will be looking to us to set a precedent. Living up to this position will require the co-operation of each of our 7,000 members. If we do nothing more than fulfill our commitments to the California Medical Association, with the advice and assistance they have given us, we will be first in legislative matters.

MRS. ROBERT J. DOUDS, *Chairman
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